

# Ezekiel 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.

## Analysis

In God's extended allegory of Jerusalem as abandoned infant, He declares: 'And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.' The repetition of 'in thy blood' and the double command 'Live' emphasize God's sovereign, life-giving intervention. The Hebrew 'chayiy' (חַיִּי, 'Live!') is an imperative that both commands and creates life. This isn't mere permission but powerful declaration—God's word brings life where there was death. The imagery recalls Israel's origins as enslaved, oppressed people in Egypt whom God redeemed and made into a nation. The blood represents both the degradation of their condition and the covenant blood that would mark their redemption (Exodus 12:13). God's initiative, not Israel's merit, explains their existence and election.

## Historical Context

This allegory addresses Jerusalem's origins, likely referencing both Israel's Egyptian slavery and Jerusalem's pre-Israelite status as a Canaanite city (Jebus) inhabited by mixed peoples. The phrase 'thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite' (16:3) reminds Jerusalem that they have no intrinsic superiority—only God's grace explains their election. Archaeological evidence confirms Jerusalem's pre-Israelite history and Israel's cultural connections to Canaanite peoples. The abandoned infant imagery

would resonate with ancient audiences familiar with the practice of exposing unwanted newborns. God's tender care transforms worthless, dying infant into beautiful bride (16:8-14), illustrating grace transforming what was naturally destined for death.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that God's 'Live!' command created you spiritually shape your understanding of salvation?
2. In what ways does this passage challenge any sense of spiritual entitlement or superiority?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּדַם יְהֹוָה מִתְּבֹאֵס סְתִּים וְאָרָא בְּךָ עַל יְהֹוָה  
And when I passed by thee and saw thee polluted in thine own blood  
H5674 H5921 H7200 H947 H1818

בָּדַם יְהֹוָה לְךָ תְּאַמְּרָה מִתְּבֹאֵס קְיִים לְךָ תְּאַמְּרָה  
I said in thine own blood Live I said in thine own blood  
H559 H0 H1818 H2421 H559 H0 H1818

לִבְנֵי  
Live  
H2421

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 5:25** (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

**Romans 9:15** (Parallel theme): For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

**Matthew 5:13** (Parallel theme): Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**Isaiah 51:23** (Parallel theme): But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.

**Acts 7:34** (Parallel theme): I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

**Deuteronomy 9:4** (Parallel theme): Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee.

**Micah 7:10** (Parallel theme): Then she that is mine enemy shall see it, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.